



Docket No. 325772034400  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Toshihisa MOTOSUGI et al.

Application No. 10/782,921

Confirmation No. 7528

Filed: February 23, 2004

Art Unit: 2636

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND  
CONTROL METHOD THEREOF

Examiner: Daniel Previl

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to action on the RCE filed concurrently herewith, applicants respectfully request consideration of the following remarks and allowance of this application once again.

**REMARKS**

Applicants have filed the accompanying RCE to ensure that the references cited in the IDS filed January 24, 2006, are considered by the Examiner.

As noted in the IDS, the references (JP 2001-109357 A, JP H02-136868 A, JP H06-156803 A and JP 2002-055568 A) were first cited in a Japanese "Notification of Reasons for Refusal" mailed on October 25, 2005. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-14 are allowable over the references for at least the following reasons.

The first reference, JP 2001-109357, discloses an image forming apparatus equipped with a means for having a displaying device display an alarm to advise replacement of a developing